IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A drying system to remove water from and beneath a surface comprising:

   a vacuum chamber in sealable contact with at least two planar surfaces, the chamber having at least one port to receive a vacuum and a periphery to effect sealing; and

   a vacuum source connected with the port,

   wherein the vacuum source creates an enclosure of negative pressure within the chamber and urges water to flow from beneath each surface and towards the vacuum source to effect moisture removal.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the vacuum chamber straddles across and makes sealable contact with the surfaces of a floor and a wall, or a wall and a ceiling, or a wall and a wall.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 2, wherein the angle of separation between each surface is approximately 90 degrees.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the vacuum chamber straddles across and makes sealable contact with the surfaces of a first wall, an second wall, and a floor.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the vacuum chamber straddles across and makes sealable contact with the surfaces of a first wall, an second wall, and a ceiling.

6. (Original) A surface drying system comprising:

   a vacuum mat having a surface with at least one vacuum port and a plurality of channels; and

   a vacuum source connected with the port,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

wherein the vacuum source creates an enclosure of negative pressure within the perimeter of the mat and urges water to flow through the channels towards the vacuum source to effect moisture removal.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of channels is made by a surface pattern formed into the mat.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the plurality of channels are made by a grid having a plurality of overlapping strands underneath the mat.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 6, wherein the port includes a manifold, the manifold having at least one nozzle, the first end of the nozzle in fluid communication with the vacuum source and the second end of the nozzle in fluid communication with the mat.

10. (Original) A method for removing moisture, the method comprising:

connecting a vacuum source to a first end of a flexible hose, the flexible hose having a second end;

placing at least one interplane vacuum chamber with a port to straddle across and make sealable contact with a first plane and a second plane, the first plane intersecting with the second plane;

connecting the second end of the flexible hose to the port; and applying the vacuum, creating within the interplane vacuum chamber a reservoir of negative pressure, to effect moisture removal underneath and from the surfaces each plane.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for removing moisture, the method comprising:

placing at least one ~~water impermeable~~ vacuum mat having ~~a~~ at least one integrally formed manifold over a surface, the mat configured to have a lattice formation, the lattice formation providing spaces;

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

connecting the manifold with a vacuum source; and

applying a vacuum, wherein negative pressure causes water to flow through the spaces within the lattice formation to the vacuum source to effect moisture removal underneath and from the surface.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the lattice pattern is formed into the mat

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the lattice pattern is formed by a plurality of overlapping strands underneath the mat.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one vacuum mats comprises multiple vacuum mats, and the mats are separately connected to the vacuum source.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one vacuum mats comprises at least a first and a second vacuum mat, and the second vacuum mat receives vacuum from the first vacuum mats, the first vacuum mat connected to the vacuum source.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of Claim 15 wherein ~~a~~ the first vacuum mat is placed on a first plane, and ~~a~~ the second vacuum mat is placed on a second plane, the first plane intersecting with the second plane.

17. (Currently amended) A system for removing moisture, the system comprising:

a means for connecting a vacuum source to a first end of a flexible hose, the flexible hose having a second end;

a means for ~~placing at least one interplane vacuum chamber with a port to straddle across and make sealable contact with~~ applying a vacuum across a first plane and

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

a second plane, the first plane intersecting with the second plane, the means for applying further comprising a port; and,

a means for connecting the second end of the flexible hose to the port~~; and applying the vacuum, creating within the interplane vacuum chamber a reservoir of negative pressure, to effect moisture removal underneath and from the surfaces of each plane~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for removing moisture, the system comprising:

a means for ~~placing at least one water impermeable vacuum mat~~ applying a vacuum ~~having a manifold~~ over a surface, the ~~mat~~ means for applying comprising a manifold and configured to have a lattice formation, the lattice formation providing spaces;

a means for connecting the manifold with a vacuum source; and

a vacuum source ~~means for applying a vacuum, wherein negative pressure causes water to flow through the spaces within the lattice formation to the vacuum source to effect moisture removal underneath and from the surface~~.

19. (New) A surface drying system comprising:

a vacuum mat having a first surface with at least one vacuum port and a plurality of protrusions, such that when the mat is placed on a second surface to be dried, the first surface, the protrusions, and the second surface form a plurality of channels; and

a vacuum source connected with the port,

wherein the vacuum source creates an enclosure of negative pressure within the perimeter of the mat and urges water to flow through the channels towards the vacuum source to effect moisture removal.

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

20. (New) A vacuum mat comprising:

a plurality of indentations extending from a top surface of the mat downward, each indentation having a substantially flat lower surface, the indentations forming channels along a bottom surface of the mat;

a substantially indentation-free perimeter having a lower surface at one of a same or lower vertical level as the flat lower surfaces of the indentations such that the perimeter can make sealable contact with a substantially flat work surface when the mat is operably positioned on the work surface, the width of the perimeter being sufficient to allow sealable contact between the perimeter and the work surface; and,

at least one port extending upward from the mat configured to allow attachment of a hose.

21. (New) The vacuum mat of Claim 20 wherein the indentations have one of a circular shape and a rectangular shape.

22. (New) A vacuum system comprising:

a plurality of overlapping strands forming a grid; and,

a vacuum mat including:

a substantially flat interior including at least one port extending upward from the mat; and,

a substantially flat perimeter extending below the vertical level of the interior such that the perimeter can make sealable contact with a substantially flat work surface when the mat is operably positioned on top of the grid on the work surface.

23. (New) The system of Claim 22, wherein the vacuum mat includes a manifold.

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM PLLC
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301